

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/561,542
Reply to OA dated August 24, 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An electric toothbrush in which brushing is enabled by back-and-forth linear movement of a tufted portion in a longitudinal direction of a replaceable brush, wherein the product of the distance (mm) of movement of the tufted portion and the frequency (times) of back-and-forth motion per minute is set in the range of 3000-9000.

Claim 2 (Original): The electric toothbrush according to claim 1, wherein the product of the distance (mm) of movement of the tufted portion and the frequency (times) of back-and-forth motion per minute is set in the range of 4500-7500.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An electric toothbrush in which brushing is enabled by back-and-forth linear movement of a tufted portion in a longitudinal direction of a replaceable brush, wherein the distance, x (mm), of movement of the tufted portion and the frequency, y (times)[[.]] of back-and-forth motion per minute are set in a range satisfying the following formula[[.]]:

$$y = ax + b,$$

Where $a = -3000, 10,000 \leq b \leq 12500, x > 0$.

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Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 1, wherein the distance of movement of the tufted portion is set at 0.3-0.7 mm.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 1, wherein the frequency of back-and-forth motion of the tufted portion is set at 8000 to 13000 per minute.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An electric toothbrush in which brushing is enabled by back-and-forth linear movement of a tufted portion in a longitudinal direction of a replaceable brush, wherein the distance of movement of the tufted portion is set at 0.3-0.7 mm and the frequency of back-and-forth motion of said tufted portion is set at 8000 to 13000 per minute.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 1, wherein filaments in which tip portions of at least 30% or more of all tufted filaments are split into a plurality of portions are used.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 1, wherein a DC electric motor is used as means for moving said tufted portion.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 2, wherein the distance of movement of the tufted portion is set at 0.3-0.7 mm.

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Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 3, wherein the distance of movement of the tufted portion is set at 0.3-0.7 mm.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 2, wherein the frequency of back-and-forth motion of the tufted portion is set at 8000 to 13000 per minute.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 3, wherein the frequency of back-and-forth motion of the tufted portion is set at 8000 to 13000 per minute.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 4, wherein the frequency of back-and-forth motion of the tufted portion is set at 8000 to 13000 per minute.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 2, wherein filaments in which tip portions of at least 30% or more of all tufted filaments are split into a plurality of portions are used.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 3, wherein filaments in which tip portions of at least 30% or more of all tufted filaments are split into a plurality of portions are used.

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Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 4, wherein filaments in which tip portions of at least 30% or more of all tufted filaments are split into a plurality of portions are used.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 5, wherein filaments in which tip portions of at least 30% or more of all tufted filaments are split into a plurality of portions are used.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 6, wherein filaments in which tip portions of at least 30% or more of all tufted filaments are split into a plurality of portions are used.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 2, wherein a DC electric motor is used as means for moving said tufted portion.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The electric toothbrush according to claim 3, wherein a DC electric motor is used as means for moving said tufted portion.